

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 10353 071722Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----098587 071728Z /64/72
O 061730Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9142

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 10353

EXDIS

FOR S/S DAVID ANDERSON

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR MS. VOORDE

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM IS BEING REPEATED TO YOU.

QUOTE:
P 051603Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
TO RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY 9123
INFO RUSNAAA/CINCEUR PRIORITY
RUFDAAA/CINCUSAREUR PRIRITY
RHFRAAB/CINCUSAFE PRIORITY
RUFTFRA/CG VTH CORPS PRIORITY
C O N F I D E N T I A L FRANKFURT 4477

EXDIS (SPECAT EXCLUSIVE)

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY) GW, WB
SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: OUT-OF-BONN PROGRAM

REF A) FRANKFURT 4422 DRG 021030Z JUN 78
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B) BONN 10192 DTG 031216Z JUN 78

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS IN REF B THE FOLLOWING
IS SUBMITTED AS A POSSIBLE SCENARIO FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT
WHICH WOULD INCLUDE US ARMY FORCES IN HANAU INSTEAD OF BRIGADE
76 AT WIESBADEN/ERBENHEIM..
-- PROGRAM FOR ARRIVAL AND THE RHEIN/MAIN AIR BASE PORTION

WOULD BE THE SAME AS IN REF A.

0930 - THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY BOARDS THE MOTORCADE AT RHEIN/MAIN AIR BASE. AND DEPARTS FOR THE HANAU AREA.

1000 - THE PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE ARRIVES AT AN ENGINEER BRIDGING AND DEMONSTRATION SITE ON THE WEST BANK OF THE MAIN RIVE AT THE OUTLYING COMMUNITY OF KLEIN-AUHEIM OF HANAU. THERE WOULD BE BLEACHERS ERECTED AT THE SITE ALONG THE WEST BANK OF THE RIVER FROM WHERE THE OFFICIAL PARTY COULD OBSERVE A BRIDGING AND RIVER CROSSING OPERATION.

-- US ARMY ENGINEER TROOPS WOULD THEN LAY A BRIDGE OR BRIDGES ACROSS THE MAIN FROM EAST TO WEST. THE BRIDGES WOULD BE A) A RIBON BRIDGE OR B) A MOBILE ASSAULT BRIDGE OR C) BOTH TYPES OF BRIDGES. THE BRIDGE LAYING OPERATION WOULD TAKE 20 MINUTES. THIS TIME COULD BE REDUCED IF HALF OF THE OPERATION IS DONE BEFORE THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY ARRIVES.

-- AS SOON AS THE BRIDGE IS COMPLETED US AND GERMAN ARMORED UNITS, INCLUDING TANKS AND APCs, WOULD CROSS THE BRIDGE FROM EAST TO WEST (SEE COMMENTS BELOW) WITH THE VEHICLES AND THEIR CREWS LINING UP IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CROSSING NEAR THE STANDS FROM WHICH THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY IS WATCHING. THE PRECISE NUMBER OF COMBAT VEHICLES MAKING THE CROSSING WOULD HAVE TO BE DETERMINED. IF ABOUT 45 VEHICLES ARE USED, THEY COULD HAVE COMPLETED THE CROSSING AND BE IN PLACE ABOUT 10 MINUTES AFTER THE BRIDGE OR BRIDGES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. TOTAL TIME FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE BRIDGE OPERATION TO THE COMPLETION OF THE CROSSING WOULD THUS BE 30 MINUTES.
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-- THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR WOULD THEN LEAVE THE STAND TO INSPECT THE EQUIPMENT, ASK QUESTIONS AND SPEAK BRIEFLY WITH THE JUNIOR OFFICERS, NCOS AND SOLDIERS MANNING THE EQUIPMENT. THE PORTION WOULD TAKE ABOUT 10 MINUTES.

-- THE TROOPS WOULD THEN BREAK RANKS AND ASSEMBLE NEAR THE PRESIDENT. THE PRESIDENT (AND THE CHANCELLOR, IF HE WISHES) COULD THEN ADDRESS REMARKS TO THE ASSEMBLED GERMAN AND AMERICAN TROOPS. THIS PORTION WOULD TAKE APPROXIMATELY 10 MINUTES.

-- FOLLOWING THE REMARKS TO THE TROOPS, REFRESHMENTS WOULD BE SERVED AS IN THE BRIGADE 76 SCENARIO WHICH WOULD GIVE THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR A CHANCE TO MINGLE INFORMALLY WITH THE TROOPS. THIS PORTION WOULD TAKE APPROXIMATELY 10 MINUTES.

1100 - THE PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE DEPARTS HANAU/KLEIN-AUHEIM ENROUTE TO FRANKFURT.

1140 - THE MOTORCADE ARRIVES AT THE ROMER PLATZ IN THE CENTER OF FRANKFURT. FROM HERE ON THE SCENARIO WOULD BE THE SAME AS IN REF A EXCEPT THAT DEPARTURE FROM FRANKFURT WOULD BE 10 MINUTES LATER.

1220 - THE PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE DEPARTS FROM FRANKFURT CENTER ENROUTE TO RHEIN/MAIN AIR BASE.

1240 - THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY ARRIVES PLANESIDE AND IMMEDIATELY BOARDS AIR FORCE ONE FOR DEPARTURE TO BERLIN,

2. COMMENTS:

A) THE WEST BANK OF THE MAIN RIVER IS SUITABLE AS THE PLACE FROM WHICH TO OBSERVE THE BRIDGING AND CROSSING OPERATION. THE EAST BANK IS PHYSICALLY NOT SUITABLE FOR THE LARGE PARTY INVOLVED. MOREOVER, HAVING THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY OBSERVE THE CROSSING FROM THAT SIDE REDUCES THE TOTAL HIGHWAY TRAVEL TIME CONSIDERABLE SO THAT THE ENTIRE FRANKFURT AREA PROGRAM WOULD ONLY TAKE 10 MINUTES MORE WITH A HANAU ALTERNATIVE THAN IT WOULD WITH A BRIGADE 76 OPTION. IT IS THUS LOGISTICALLY FEASIBLE, BUT ONLY IF FRANKFURT IS THE CITY TO BE VISITED. THE HANAU OPTION IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH WIESBADEN IF THAT SHOULD BE THE GERMAN CHOICE OF THE CITY TO BE VISITED.

B) HANAU SCENARIO WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE USE OF A LIMITED
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AMOUNT OF LAND AREA NOT OWNED BY US ARMY AND THEREFORE IS LIKELY TO RESULT IN SOME MANEUVER DAMAGE WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE SETTLED THROUGH NORMAL CLAIMS PROCEDURES.

C) MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS FACT THAT CROSSING OF THE MAIN RIVER BY US AND GERMAN FORCES WOULD BE FROM EAST TO WEST, I.E. AWAY FROM FORWARD DEFENSE POSITIONS, NOT TOWARDS THEM. IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE BUT MESSY TO CHANGE THE SCENARIO SO AS TO HAVE THE US AND GERMAN FORCES ASSEMBLE INITIALLY ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE RIVER IN WHICH CASE THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR WOULD FIRST INSPECT THE EQUIPMENT AND TALK TO THE TROOPS BEFORE THE BRIDGING AND SUBSEQUENT CROSSING OPERATION BEGINS. IN THIS MODIFIED SCENARIO THE ARMORED FORCES WOULD THEN CROSS THE MAIN FROM WEST TO EAST WHICH WOULD AVOID THE CONNOTATION OF WITHDRAWAL WHICH MIGHT BE INFERRED FROM AN EAST TO WEST CROSSING BUT WOULD ALSO HAVE THE OFFICIAL PARTY AND TV CAMERAS STARING AT A LOT OF EXHAUST PIPES WHILE THE CROSSING IS IN PROGRESS.

3. MOVEMENT OF PRESS

ADDITIONAL QUESTION RAISED CONCERNS POSSIBLE MOVEMENT OF PRESS TO EITHER BRIGADE 76 OR THE HANAU SITE BY HELICOPTER RATHER THAN AS PART OF THE MOTORCADE. WE WILL LOOK INTO THIS POSSIBILITY FURTHER BUT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE PRESS TO BE MOVED FROM RHEIN/MAIN AIR BASE TO EITHER SITE IN ABOUT 5 OR 6 CHINOOKS. IF THE FOURTH ESTATE HURRIES ON DEPARTURE FROM RHEIN/MAIN AIR BASE, IT MIGHT THUS BE POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO ARRIVE AT EITHER PLACE BEFORE THE PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE. LEHMANN
UNQUOTE: STOESEL

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